

Quick Volunteer cleanup ordered

EPA waves 'big stick' at Army

By JUDY WALTON
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ordered the Army to locate all the contamination at the Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant and come up with a cleanup plan by the end of the year.

The corrective action order is aimed at forcing the Army to speed up the pace of cleanup at the former TNT plant near Tyner, which closed in 1977.

Decades of TNT production have left soil and groundwater on the 6,350-acre plant contaminated with explosives, nitrates, lead, arsenic and other chemicals considered a threat to human health. Chemicals were found in residential wells and in springs outside the site's borders during the mid-1990s.

EPA's order says the Army must locate and measure all contamination at the site and come up with a plan of correction. Failure to meet any part of the strict timetable could trigger fines of \$27,500 a day, according to a press release from EPA.

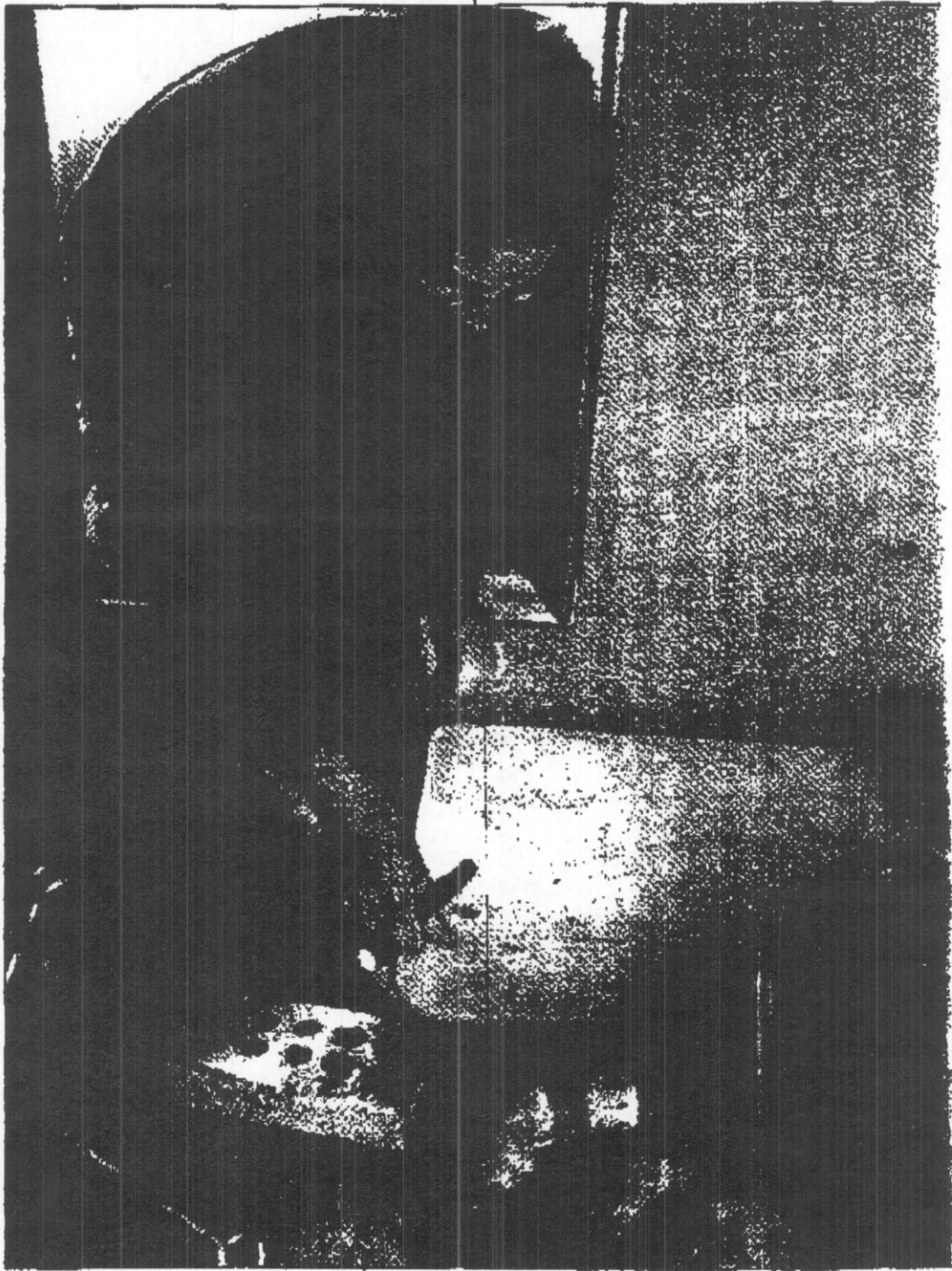
"This is the big stick," said Doyle Brittain, senior remedial project manager for the EPA Region IV office in Atlanta.

"All we're asking the Army to do is the same thing the state's been asking them to do for a long time, to do an investigation from fence to fence in all directions."

A copy of the order was delivered Wednesday to Bobby Holloway, commander's representative at the plant. He could not be reached for comment.

Top leaders in Chattanooga and Hamilton County, who are looking to the Volunteer Site for future economic development, were delighted with the action.

"I think it's a very positive step



Steve Muffler, technical lead with I.T. Corp., inspects a well at a Clark Road home in Loudon on

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